

## Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 OMB-01 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 DRC-01 /077 W

----- 117319

O R 241040Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3540

INFO SECDEF

JCS WASHDC

COMUSJAPAN FUCHU JA

5TH AF FUCHU JAPAN

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

SECAF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 9759

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR JA

SUBJ: USAF ACTIVITY AT TOKOROZAWA

REF: STATE 160561

1. EMBASSY PASSED REVISIONS TO ANSWERS IN ACCORDANCE INSTRUCTION PARA ONE REFTEL. FONOFF ADVISES THAT REVISED Q AND A'S HAVE BEEN CLEARED AT BUREAU LEVEL IN BOTH FONOFF AND JDA BUT HAVE NOT BEEN CLEARED BY FONMIN KIMURA. THEY BRIEFED HIM MIDDAY JULY 25.

2. FONOFF ALSO REPORTED, HOWEVER, THAT DEVELOPMENTS IN DIET OVERNIGHT HAVE RESULTED IN CANCELLATION OF LOWER HOUSE CABINET COMMITTEE MEETING ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY MORNING JULY 25. IN VIEW OF LDP/GOJ SUCCESS IN FORCING DECISION AGAINST EXTENDED SUBSTANTIVE DIET SESSION IN FAVOR OF EIGHT-DAY SESSION  
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DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO PROCEDURAL MATTERS (SEPTTEL), FONOFF

DOES NOT NOW KNOW WHEN OR WHETHER TOKOROZAWA MATTER  
WILL BE RAISED IN DIET CONTEXT.

3. IN MEANTIME, FONOFF PREPARED GUIDANCE FOR POSSIBLE USE  
BY SENIOR SPOKESMEN IN RESPONSE TO PRESS QUESTIONS, IF  
ANY RECEIVED. AFTER FURTHER CONSULTATIONS AT SENIOR  
LEVELS IN MINISTRY AFTERNOON JULY 25, HOWEVER, DECISION  
WAS TAKEN TO WITHDRAW PREVIOUS PRESS GUIDANCE AND  
INSTRUCT ALL SPOKESMEN TO PARRY QUESTIONS CONCERNING  
TOKOROZAWA BY SAYING GOJ IS CONTINUING TO LOOK INTO  
MATTER AND IS NOT YET PREPARED TO MAKE STATEMENT. FONOFF  
RATIONALE IS: (A) SUBJECT STILL CONSIDERED HIGHLY  
SENSITIVE POLITICALLY WITHIN GOJ; (B) GOJ IS UNDER  
STATUTORY OBLIGATION TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM DIET, BUT  
NOT FROM MEDIA; AND (C) PRESSURE FROM MEDIA IS NOT  
LIKELY TO BECOME INTOLERABLE OVER SHORT TERM, HOPEFULLY  
UNTIL DIET AGAIN IN SESSION IN THE FALL.

4. FONOFF IS REQUESTING THAT WE RESPOND TO PRESS INQUIRIES  
ALONG SIMILAR LINES: I.E., THAT WE SAY SIMPLY MATTER IS  
UNDER DISCUSSION WITH GOJ AND FOR MOMENT IT WOULD NOT  
BE APPROPRIATE FOR US TO MAKE STATEMENT. UNLESS  
INSTRUCTED OTHERWISE, WE PLAN TO SUGGEST TO AMBASSADOR  
HODGSON, WHO WILL MEET MEDIA ON TWO OCCASIONS FRIDAY  
JULY 26, THAT HE FOLLOW FONOFF WISHES FOR THE MOMENT.  
WE BELIEVE, JUDGING FROM DISCUSSIONS WITH AMERICAN PRESS  
CORPS LOCALLY, THAT THIS POSTURE WILL HOLD, BUT NOT FOR  
LONG PERIOD. WE WOULD EXPECT TO BE WORKING WITH GOJ  
FURTHER ON PROBLEM OF MORE ELABORATED RESPONSES AT SOME  
TIME IN FUTURE WHEN THEY FEEL THEY CAN SURFACE UNCLASSIFIED  
BACKGROUND FORMATION THEY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.

5. COMMENT: OUR REACTION IS THAT GOJ TACTIC IS ILL-  
ADVISED AND WE HAVE SO ARGUED AT WORKING LEVEL IN FONOFF.  
WE ARE TOLD, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION TO REFUSE COMMENT ON  
TOKOROZAWA WAS CONSIDERED AT HIGH LEVELS AND WILL NOT  
BE CHANGED AT PRESENT TIME. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE DISPOSED  
TO CONTINUE OUR COOPERATION FOR TIME BEING.  
HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

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